



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

and perhaps their combination would have cost no serious trouble to any experienced geometer who had chosen to attack the problem. But to his *own* mind the whole foregoing investigation presents itself as being (what in fact in his case it *was*) a mere *translation of the quaternion analysis into ordinary geometrical language*, on this particular subject. And he will not complicate the present Abstract by giving, on *this* occasion, any account of those *other* theorems respecting polygons in surfaces, to which the Calculus of Quaternions has conducted him, but of which he has not yet seen how to *translate the proofs* (for it is easy to translate the *results*) into the usual language of *geometry*.

---

Sir William Rowan Hamilton gave also an account of some *general* researches, respecting curvatures of surfaces, and geodetic triangles thereon, conducted by the method of quaternions; but desires that the publication of the Abstract of this communication may be postponed to another occasion.

---

MAY 27TH, 1850.

THE REV. HUMPHREY LLOYD, D. D., PRESIDENT,  
in the Chair.

DR. TODD exhibited to the Academy two small quarto paper MSS. in the Irish language and character, the property of the Royal Burgundian Library at Brussels.

He stated that his attention was first called to these MSS. by the communication made to the Academy on the 24th of May, 1847, by Mr. Bindon, relative to the Irish MSS. preserved in that library. Soon afterwards Mr. Graves, the Secretary of Council, having had occasion to visit Brussels, was kind enough to send him (Dr. Todd) a very detailed account of these and one or two other MSS., which seemed to be of peculiar interest to the student of Irish history. This induced

him to visit Brussels himself, and to inspect the MSS. in question. He there collated the curious history of the Danish wars in Ireland, of which there is an imperfect copy in the Library of Trinity College. He transcribed the passages deficient in that copy, and brought home a list of the various readings found in the Brussels MS. of that very important tract, with a view to its publication; but time did not permit him to do more. He saw, however, that the two volumes now exhibited to the Academy were of much greater importance, and were in fact the most valuable documents for the illustration of the ecclesiastical history and topography of Ireland that have been as yet discovered. He hoped, therefore, that, as he now has it in his power to exhibit them to the Academy, some account of their contents would not be unacceptable. But first it was necessary to explain how they came into his possession, and how it was that he was enabled to exhibit them here. He owes this privilege to the very great kindness of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Dr. Todd was so much impressed with the great importance of obtaining copies of the MSS. now before the Academy, that he ventured to state the case to His Excellency, having been informed at Brussels, that the Belgian Government would make no difficulty about lending the MSS., if application were made to them by the Government here. The Lord Lieutenant, although he was then in London, and occupied with much urgent public business, very kindly took the matter up, made the necessary communication to the Belgian authorities, and in short obtained the MSS., with full permission to have transcripts made of them.

Dr. Todd exhibited the beautiful copies of these valuable records which had been made for him by Mr. Eugene Curry; copies which he had no hesitation in saying were much more valuable than the originals, as being not only more legible and intelligible, but also in many respects more correct. He then proceeded to describe the contents of the two curious

volumes thus recovered to Ireland; premising that they were both in the handwriting of the celebrated friar, Michael O'Clery, well known as being one of the chroniclers to whom Colgan gave the honourable appellation of "the Four Masters." The first volume was the original autograph MS. of the Martyrology of Donegal, so often referred to by Colgan in his *Acta Sanctorum*. It contained the original attestations, in the Irish language, of the professional antiquaries, Flan Mac Aodhagain [Egan] and Conor Mac Brody, together with the approbation (in Latin) of the Roman Catholic Prelates, Malachy, Archbishop of Tuam; Boetius, Bishop of Elphin; Thomas Fleming, Archbishop of Dublin; and Roch, Bishop of Kildare. These documents possess the autograph signatures of the parties, and are dated in November and December, 1636, and in January and February, 1637. Of Michael O'Clery, the principal author or compiler of this Martyrology, we learn from Colgan that he was by profession an antiquary, and eminently learned in the history and antiquities of Ireland. After joining the Franciscan Order at the Convent of Louvain, he was permitted by his superiors to continue his favourite studies, and was even sent into Ireland for the purpose of collecting materials for a work on the lives of the Irish saints, which was contemplated by the guardian of the convent, the learned father Hugh Ward, but which his death in 1637 unfortunately put an end to. The volumes now before the Academy were in part the results of O'Clery's researches; and having been placed in the hands of Colgan, after the death of Ward, they have been virtually the means of preserving to us almost all that is now known of the history of the saints of Ireland. Colgan's labours, however, were also interrupted by his death, after he had completed but three months of the year, and we must, therefore, still have recourse to original sources for information respecting the saints whose festivals occur in the nine remaining months. This circumstance greatly enhances the value of the volumes now reco-

vered, and renders it a matter of great congratulation to the friends of Irish history that they have been transcribed, and their contents made accessible to Irish scholars. The Martyrology of Donegal was not altogether the work of Michael O'Clery, although he was probably the principal compiler. He was assisted, as Colgan tells us, by the other three antiquaries, who were also his colleagues in the compilation of the Annals of the Four Masters ; and there were likewise others in the Convent of Donegal, who gave their aid by supplying notices of those Irish saints who had lived in foreign countries, or whose acts were recorded by foreign historians. The MS. which contains this valuable work is divided into two parts. In the first part the saints are in the order of the months of the year, at the days on which their memories were honoured in Ireland. In the second part the names of the saints are arranged alphabetically. In both parts several curious notices occur incidentally, in which ancient books, not now known to exist, are quoted, and in which ancient croziers, shrines, and reliquaries, are mentioned, most of which have entirely disappeared. A note at the end of the volume informs us that the Martyrology was begun and finished in the Convent of Donegal, and that it was completed on the 19th of April, 1630.

The second volume is even still more important, for it contains copies of some of the original documents from which the former work was compiled. These are also in the autograph of Michael O'Clery, transcribed by him from ancient MSS., which have probably long since perished. The first sixty-seven pages of the volume are occupied with some ancient poems in the Irish language, all bearing out the history of the Irish saints, with several other documents of very great interest to the student of church history. Amongst them are the Confession, or Litany of St. Kieran, the Lorica (as it is called) of St. Columbkille, the history of the twelve apostles of Ireland, &c. This portion of the volume contains also the only copies

we possess of the very curious *Regulæ*, or religious Rules of the principal founders of religious houses in Ireland, such as the Rule of Eachtgus O'Cuanain of the Abbey of Roscrea, the Rule of Columbkille, the Rule of St. Ailbhe of Emly, the Rule of Cormac Mac Cuillenain of Cashel, the Rule of St. Comhgall of Bangor, &c. These rules are, for the most part, in metre, and along with them are several curious poems attributed to the principal saints of Ireland, throwing very great light on the religious opinions, manners, and customs of the Irish Church, from the fifth to the twelfth century. This portion of the volume, the writer tells us, was transcribed from ancient MSS., partly in the Abbey of Quin, county Clare, in 1634, partly at Droghada, now Bundroose, county Sligo, in 1630. The remainder of the volume is occupied by the *Feilire*, or Martyrology, of St. Aenghus the Culdee, the Martyrology of Marianus Gorman, the Martyrology of Tallaght, and the *Naoimhgenealach*, or Genealogy of the Saints. Of this last there are two different transcripts; it is a long poem containing the history of the saints of Ireland, and has been attributed to Sealbhach, the secretary of King Cormac Mac Cuillenain, who flourished at the end of the ninth and beginning of the tenth century. One of these copies was transcribed at the Convent of Donegal, on the 25th of April, 1636, out of the parchment book of Maurice Mac Torna O'Mulconry; the other was copied on the 28th of the same month and year, and at the same place, out of the book of Leacain of Mac Firis. The *Feilire* of Aenghus was transcribed 9th February, 1630, from a copy made in the year 1534, by Jeremiah O'Mulconry. The Martyrology of O'Gorman and the Martyrology of Tallaght appear to have been copied from a much more ancient MS., which is frequently called by our author, "the old parchment MS.," although its precise age is not specified. Neither is the date of the present transcript particularly given, although the attestation prefixed to it, subscribed by Fearfeasa O'Mul-

conry and Cucogry or Peregrine O'Clery, is dated 18th August, 1633.

The Martyrology of Aenghus the Culdee is one of the most curious documents connected with Irish ecclesiastical history which still remain to us; had it belonged to any other country of Europe but this, it would not have been suffered to remain so long in obscurity. Its author flourished at the close of the eighth century, and composed the work at the Abbey of Tallaght, near Dublin, of which he was then an inmate. It is an elaborate poem, in an ancient dialect of the Irish language, written in rhyme, and with all the alliterations and other artificial rules of prosody with which the poets of that age were fettered. A stanza of four lines is devoted to each day of the year. In this short space the author prescribed to himself to introduce the names of the principal saints of the day, with brief allusions to their peculiar characters or acts. A curious introductory poem at the beginning, and another similar one at the end, complete the work. This document is rendered still more valuable and curious by the ancient interlinear gloss and copious scholia with which it is accompanied. These are probably not later than the twelfth or thirteenth centuries, and portions of them are certainly much older. The object of the gloss is to explain obsolete words and phrases which occur in the text,—words which we must remember were obsolete in the twelfth century,—and it is, therefore, of the utmost value and interest to the student of Celtic philology. The scholia contain genealogical notices of the saints mentioned by the author, legends of their acts and miracles, the names of the churches where they were honoured, with other similar information, and often notices of saints whose names were omitted in the body of the work.

The next document in the volume is the Martyrology of Maelmura (or Marianus) O'Gorman, who was abbot of Knock-na-sengan, near Louth, in the middle of the twelfth

century, and died in 1181. This work is also composed in metre, but with two quatrains, i. e. eight lines, to each day of the month, and with much less of the artificial poetical restrictions with which the author of the *Feilire* incumbered himself. The text is also accompanied by a valuable gloss. Then follows the martyrology of Tallaght, as Colgan calls it, or, as it is termed in the MS. itself, “The Martyrology of Aenghus Mac Oibhlean and Maolruain.” This work is in prose, being in fact little more than a bare list of the saints, but, as Colgan testifies, much more copious than the Roman or any other martyrology which he had seen. It is said to have been composed in the abbey of Tallaght, near Dublin, by the joint labour of Aenghus and his friend Maolruain, abbot of the monastery; but in its present form it has evidently received many interpolations of a later date, for it includes a notice of the obits of Aenghus and Maolruain themselves, notwithstanding the title, which ascribes the work to them as its authors. These additions, however, do not militate against the authenticity of the Martyrology, which probably Colgan has fixed the year 900 as the date in which the work must have appeared in its present form, for it mentions the obit of Carbre, Abbot of Clonmacnoise, who died March 6, A. D. 899, but does not notice the name of any saint of later date, not even the celebrated Cormac, King of Munster and Archbishop of Cashel, who died in 903 or 908: so that the year 900 may be regarded with much probability as the date of this work, which was evidently continued and revised down to that period by the monks of Tallaght, after the death of Aenghus and Maolruain, its original compilers. Then follows a list of the saints of Ireland, arranged under two classes, those who were bishops, and those who were priests; and the volume closes with the *Naoimhsheanchus naomh innsi Fail*, or poetical history of the saints of Ireland, which has been already spoken of.

Dr. Todd concluded by stating, that although the kindness with which His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, at his

request, made application to the Government of Belgium, must be regarded by him as a personal favour granted to himself, on the part of that distinguished nobleman, still he could not but feel that it was a favour which no private individual, as such, had a right to ask, and which was accorded to him in consequence of the official relation in which he had the honour to stand to the Academy. He trusted, therefore, that there would be no impropriety in his moving the Academy, as the body whose especial duty it is to watch over and collect the authentic sources of Irish history, to return public thanks to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for his kindness in procuring for Ireland the use of these records, and also to the Belgian Government, and the directors of the Burgundian Library at Brussels, for their very great liberality in lending the MSS., and permitting them to be transported to so great a distance for the purpose of being transcribed.

---

IT WAS RESOLVED,—That the thanks of the Academy be given to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for his kindness in exerting his influence with the Belgian Government to procure the use of these MSS. for Irish scholars, and the permission to have copies of them made.

Also,—That His Excellency be requested, in returning the MSS., to convey the thanks of the Academy to the Belgian Government, for their very great liberality in permitting the MSS. to be transported to so great a distance for the purpose of being transcribed.

---

By permission of the Academy, Mr. Clibborn, the curator of the museum, read a letter addressed by him to the Secretary, containing observations made to him by travellers visiting the museum, noticing the similarity of various articles found in Ireland to ornaments actually in use in other countries.